

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HEW-02

CU-02 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 INT-05 STR-04 XMB-02 FRB-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9741

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 4695

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RO, BR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ROMANIAN PRESIDENT TO BRAZIL

REF: BUCHAREST 2397

SUMMARY: ROMANIAN PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU'S VISIT TO BRAZIL WAS ESSENTIALLY NORMAL AND LOW-KEY, WITH ECONOMICS AND COMMERCE RECEIVING PRINCIPAL ATTENTION AND POLITICAL MATTERS REPORTEDLY LIMITED TO GENERALITIES. THERE WERE SOME AWKWARD SPOTS AND SOME PRIVATE COMPLAINTS FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS OVER THE ROMANIANS' HANDLING OF ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS, BUT IN THE LARGER SENSE THERE WAS LITTLE TO DISTINGUISH THE VISIT FROM THAT OF ANY OTHER CHIEF OF A RELATIVELY SMALL AND DISTANT STATE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JUNE 4, PRESIDENT OF ROMANIA AND MRS. NICOLAE CEAUSESCU ARRIVED IN BRASILIA TO BEGIN A 5-DAY VISIT IN BRAZIL. THE ACCOMPANYING FIFTY-MAN PARTY INCLUDED GHEORGHE OPREA, VICE PRIME MINISTER, GEORGE MACORESCU, MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, DUMITRU POPESCU, PRESIDENT OF THE EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION, CONFIDENTIAL

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VASILE PUNGAN, COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT, AND NICOLAE IONESCU,

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN COMMERCE AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. CEAUSESCU, THE SECOND PRESIDENT OF A SOCIALIST COUNTRY TO VISIT BRAZIL AND THE FIRST SINCE THE 1964 REVOLUTION, WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY PRESIDENT AND MRS. GEISEL AND THE ENTIRE BRAZILIAN CABINET.

2. IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS, THE ROMANIAN PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED THE COMMON LATIN BACKGROUND OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THEIR SIMILAR INTEREST IN PURSUING AN INDEPENDANT POLICY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NON-INTERVENTION IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS AND NO AUTOMATIC INCLUSION IN ANY GROUP OF NATIONS. CEAUSESCU NOTED, IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE BRAZILIAN CONGRESS, THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN ROMANIA AND BRAZIL DEMONSTRATE THAT TWO COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL REGIMES CAN COLLABORATE WITH THE BEST OF RESULTS. ALTHOUGH ROMANIA PLACED A SPECIAL VALUE ON RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST NATIONS, AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS MORE THAN WILLING TO LEND ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES ENROUTE TO DEVELOPMENT. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE CEAUSESCU ADVOCATED THE "DISMANTLING OF THE WARSAW PACT AND NATO" AS A NECESSITY TO CALM THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND GUARANTEE THE SECURITY AND PEACE OF EUROPE AND THE WORLD. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR THE "PEOPLES" RIGHT TO BE THE MASTERS OF AND EXPLOIT THEIR NATIONAL RESOURCES WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. PRESIDENT GEISEL USED THE VISIT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM THE BRAZILIAN POLICY OF "ECUMENISMO" AS THE BASIS FOR ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONS. THIS LIVE-AND-LET-LIVE POLICY, GEISEL STATED, WAS DEVOID OF HEGEMONIC AMBITION, UPHELD THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION, BACKED NON-INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS AND AVOIDED INTRACTABLE AUTOMATIC ALIGNMENTS. THE JURIDICAL EQUALITY OF NATIONS, GEISEL, EMPHASIZED, WAS

NOT AN ABSTRACT PRINCIPLE BUT A POSITIVE NOTION FOR BRAZIL.

4. THE BILATERAL ACCORDS SIGNED COVERED FIVE MAIN AREAS OF FUTURE INTERCHANGE AND SUPPORT. ROMANIA PLEDGED A \$150 MILLION LINE OF CREDIT TO FINANCE TECHNOLOGY, PROJECT AND EQUIPMENT ACQUISITIONS FOR STAGE III OF THE METALURGY EXPANSION PROGRAMS OF COSIPA, USIMINAS AND COMPANHIA SIDERURGICA NACIONAL (STEEL FIRMS), WITH REPAYMENT TO BE SPREAD OUT OVER A 12-YEAR TERM AT 8 PERCENT. THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AS WELL AS THE ADAPTATION OF PRODUCTION METHODS IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL FIELD WERE ALSO

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AGREED UPON. THE COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT OF MAY 1961 WAS REPLACED BY AN AGREEMENT WHICH GRANTS RECIPROCAL MOST-FAVORED NATION STATUS IN BILATERAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. A \$10 MILLION LINE OF CREDIT AT THE ROMANIAN FOREIGN COMMERCE BANK WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO BRAZIL. IN THE MINING SECTOR, THE EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND THE PURCHASE OF ROMANIAN EQUIPMENT FOR PETROLEUM RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION WAS AGREED UPON. BRAZIL AND ROMANIA ALSO AGREED THAT THE TRANSPORT OF COMMERCE BETWEEN

THE TWO NATIONS WOULD BE EQUALLY SHARED BY NATIONAL FLAG VESSELS.
BRAZIL AGREED TO SELL ROMANIA 25 MILLION TONS OF IRON ORE
BETWEEN 1976 AND 1985. (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS WITH FURTHER DETAILS
OF AGREEMENTS.)

5. THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY ARRIVED IN SAO PAULO ON 6 JUNE AND
VISITED THE COMPANHIA SIDERURGICA PAULISTA. AFTER A 45-MINUTE
CLOSED MEETING WITH SAO PAULO GOVERNOR PAULO EDIGIO, PRESIDENT
CEAUSESCU MET WITH A GROUP OF PAULISTA BUSINESSMEN. THE ENCOUNTER
WAS SCHEDULED TO BE AN EXPOSITION OF GENERAL AND SPECIFIC
PROBLEMS OF PAULISTA INDUSTRIES AND AN EXPLOATION OF POSSIBLE
COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN SAO PAULO BUSINESS AND ROMANIA.
ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS HERE, THE GROUP, WHOSE RANKS HAD
TO BE FILLED OUT BY HASTILY DRAFTED NEWSMEN, WAS ILL PREPARED
AND THE MEETING WAS MARKED BY LONG PERIODS OF HEAVY SILENCE.
(A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO WAS PRESENT TOLD US THAT
CEAUSESCU INVITED THE BUSINESSMEN DIRECTLY TO PARTICIPATE IN
JOINT VENTURES; THE OFFICIAL ADDED THAT THOSE INTERESTED WILL
BE ON THEIR OWN, WITH NO GOB INVOLVEMENT. ALONG THE SAME LINES,
A BRAZILIAN CORRESPONDENT REPORTED FROM BUCHAREST THAT THE OFFICE
OF FOREIGN COMMERCE FAVORED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT VENTURES
IN BRAZIL AND ROMANIA. THERE WOULD BE OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY
FOR STATE FIRMS BUT ALSO PRIVATE ENTERPRISE TO PARTICIPATE,
ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, WHICH ADDED THAT THE ROMANIANS WOULD
LIKE TO RECEIVE THE PROCEEDS OF THESE VENTURES PARTIALLY IN CASH
AND PARTIALLY IN MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS.)

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6. COMMENT: WHILE THE VISIT WAS EXTENSIVELY COVERED IN THE PRESS HERE, THE SPIRIT OF THE COVERAGE WAS SUBDUED, WITH VIRTUALLY NO ATTENTION PAID TO THE PERSONALITIES OF ANY OF THE VISITORS. IN GENERAL, THE VISIT WENT OFF OUTWARDLY IN A QUITE NORMAL WAY, DOUBTLESS A REFLECTION AT LEAST IN PART OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE GOB, EXPRESSED TO US BY FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS BEFOREHAND, TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. ACCORDING TO ONE OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN THE VISIT, THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL ASPECTS WERE AS PREDOMINANT BEHIND THE SCENES AS THEY WERE IN THE PUBLIC COVERAGE, WITH POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS LIMITED TO "GENERALITIES".

7. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, SOME UNFRIENDLY SPOTS, AND EVEN SOME ROUGH ONES. ONE AWKWARD INCIDENT REPORTED IN THE PRESS WAS THE REFUSAL OF THE RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE THE USUAL AWARD TO CEAUSESCU DURING HIS PROTOCOLARY VISIT TO THE CONGRESS: ONE ACCOUNT NOTED THAT IN RETALIATION, HIS ADDRESS TO THE ASSEMBLED CONGRESSMEN WAS HEAVY WITH FIGURES. CEAUSESCU AND GEISEL, HOWEVER, DID EXCHANGE THE USUAL DECORATIONS.

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8. BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE VISIT WE ENCOUNTERED FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS IN EMOTIONAL STATES APPROACHING FURY OVER THE ROMANIANS' HANDLING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, REPORTEDLY FRAUGHT WITH CONSTANT CHANGES AND OUTRAGEOUS DEMANDS: THESE WERE PARTICULARLY GALLING, SAID ONE OFFICIAL, BECAUSE CEAUSESCU NOT ONLY INVITED HIMSELF BUT INSISTED ON COMING. ANOTHER, CALLING THE ROMANIANS "MORE LATIN THAN WE ARE", SAID THAT ONCE THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM WAS FINALLY SET, THE BRAZILIANS RESPONDED BY ABSOLUTELY REFUSING TO MAKE ANY FURTHER CHANGES. THE PRESENCE IN THE PARTY OF PEOPLE DESIGNATED VARIOUSLY AS A COOK, A HAIR-DRESSER, AND A TAILOR ALSO EVOKED COMMENT, SOME OF IT TAKING THEM AT FACE VALUE: ONE OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, COMPLAINED THAT SINCE THE PRESENCE OF SECURITY AGENTS IN SUCH CASES IS STANDARD INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE, THE ROMANIANS SHOULD HAVE LABELED THEM HONESTLY.

9. ACCORDING TO THESE SAME SOURCES, THE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH PRECEDED THE VISIT WERE NOT EASY: SAID ONE OFFICIAL ABOUT THE ROMANIANS, "THEY WORK HARD AND THEY GIVE HARD WORK". THE FINAL DELAYS REPORTED IN THE PRESS, HOWEVER, SAID ANOTHER, WERE NOT THE RESULT OF LINGERING DISAGREEMENTS BUT SIMPLY OF THE ROMANIAN BUREAUCRATIC REALITY THAT ONLY CEAUSESCU HIMSELF COULD GRANT APPROVAL ONCE HE ARRIVED. A MINISTRY OFFICIAL INVOLVED

IN THE NEGOTIATIONS NOTED TO AN EMBOFF THAT THE BRAZILIANS WERE PLEASED TO GET 12-YEAR REPAYMENT TERMS ON THE CREDIT, A BREAKTHROUGH WHICH THE GOB HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN SEEKING WITH ITS TRADITIONAL CREDITORS. JUST HOW MUCH OF THE CREDIT WOULD BE USED, HE ADDED, WAS NOTHER MATTER.

10. IN TERMS OF HOW THE VISIT ACTUALLY WENT OFF, SECURITY DID NOT APPEAR TO BE A SOURCE OF PARTICULAR WORRY TO ANYONE. IN CONTRAST TO THE INFORMATION IN REFTEL PARA 3 THAT LARGE URBAN CENTERS WOULD BE AVOIDED TO GUARD AGAINST AN UNWELCOME OUTBREAK OF POPULAR SOCIALIST SENTIMENT, CEAUSESCU WENT TO SAO PAULO, BRAZIL'S LARGEST URBAN CENTER: AND IN CONTRAST TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN US BY A PROTOCOL OFFICER HERE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE REAL CONCERN WAS A DEMONSTRATION BY ANTI-COMMUNIST ROMANIANS, THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM CALLED FOR HIM TO MEET WITH THE ROMANIAN COMMUNITY IN THAT CITY. IN FACTN THE PRESS HERE REPEATEDLY SAID THAT SECURITY FOR THE VISIT WAS LIGHT.

11. WITH SENSITIVITIES IN RIGHT-WING CIRCLES HERE STILL TENDER
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OVER THE AUGUST 1974 RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF TIES WITH THE PRC, THE GEISEL ADMINISTRATION'S RECEPTION OF CEAUSESCU WAS NOT UNCOURAGEOUS, AND IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE BRAZILIAN PRESS' REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CEAUSESCU AS A "DIFFERENT COMMUNIST-DEFYING THE SOVIET RULE IN EASTERN EUROPE WAS PARTLY INSPIRED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. CEAUSESCU HIMSELF, HOWEVER, STRICTLY AVOIDED SUCH SUGGESTIONS WHEN THEY WERE MADE TO HIM, EVEN AT THE COST OF APPEARING OBVIOUSLY EVASIVE. HIS REMARK ABOUT THE ELIMINATION OF NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT WAS REPORTED IN THE PRESS BUT EVOKED NO COMMENT HERE REGARDING EITHER ITS SUBSTANCE OR ITS IMPROPRIETY. END COMMENT.
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